

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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TAGS: PFOR, XF
SUBJECT: KISSINGER IN HONG KONG PRESS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FRONT PAGE ITEM IN HONG KONG STANDARD OF
MARCH 25: QUOTE
KISSINGER'S SHOCK VIEWS ON ISRAEL
DOCUMENTS OUTLINING DR HENRY KISSINGER'S PRIVATE SOLUTION TO THE
MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM HAVE BEEN FOUND IN A MYSTERY SUITCASE AT
KAITAK AIRPORT.
AND THE DOCUMENTS WOULD SEEM TO SHOW THAT THE FORMER AMERICAN
SECRETARY OF STATE'S PRIVATE VIEW OF ISRAEL AND EGYPT WAS AT
VARIANCE WITH HIS OFFICIAL STAND.
THE DOCUMENTS RELATE TO A PRIVATE MEETING EARLY LAST YEAR BETWEEN
DR. KISSINGER AND A 43-YEAR-OLD AFRICAN DIPLOMAT, MR. NICOLAS
MONDJO, THE HEAD OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE CONGO AT
THE UNITED NATIONS.
DR. KISSINGER IS SAID TO HAVE DESCRIBED THE MIDDLE EAST
PROBLEM AS BEING LIKE "A LION (EGYPT) AND A BITCH (ISRAEL
IN THE SAME CAGE.""
ACCORDING TO THE REPORT DISCOVERED AT KAITAK, MR. MONDJO
TOLD DR KISSINGER HE WAS INTRIGUED AND ASKED FURTHER.
DR KISSINGER REPLIED. "YOU CAN KEEP THE TWO TOGETHER BUT
EACH MORNING YOU HAVE TO CHANGE THE BITCH."

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DR KISSINGER'S OFFICIAL STAND OVER THE MIDDLE EAST WAS FOR
A STABLE GOVERNMENT IN ISRAEL BUT HIS REMARKS TO THE PARIS-
EDUCATED DIPLOMAT WOULD INDICATE A DIFFERENT VIEW.
THE CHEAP, IMITATION LEATHER SUITCASE ARRIVED AT KAITAK ON
JULY 10 LAST YEAR ON AIR FRANCE FLIGHT AF192 FROM PARIS
AND BANGKOK. IT WAS NOT LABELLED AND WAS PUT INTO THE AIRPORT'S
CARGO TERMINAL.

ON FRIDAY, MARCH 18, OFFICIALS FROM THE HONGKONG AIR CARGO TERMINAL AND TWO SURVEYORS OPENED THE SUITCASE TO DETERMINE THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY INSIDE PRIOR TO AUCTIONING IT. THE OFFICIALS SPOTTED A QUANTITY OF AMMUNITION IN THE CASE AND IMMEDIATELY CALLED IN THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE AND THE POLICE. AT FIRST, INTEREST CENTRED ON TWO, .38 SMITH AND WESSON SPECIALS, TWO .38 COLT SPECIALS, A CHEAP GERMAN-MADE .38 ROHM SPECIAL AND 170 ROUNDS OF .38 AMMUNITION. WITH THE WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION WERE A NUMBER OF ROLLS OF SUITING MATERIAL, TWO GOLD PENS AND FIVE PACKAGES CONTAINING DOCUMENTS. ONE PACKAGE, CONTAINING THE "KISSINGER PLAN," WAS NOT SEALED. THE OTHER FOUR PACKAGES WERE SEALED WITH AN OFFICIAL WAX SEAL FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE). THEY WERE ADDRESSED TO THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CONGO, COMMANDER MARIEN NGOUABI; HIS MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. THEOPHILE OBENGA; AND THE INTERIOR MINISTER; AND THE FINANCE MINISTER. COMMANDER NGOUABI, WHO BECAME HEAD OF STATE ON JANUARY 1, 1969 FOLLOWING A COUP IN SEPTEMBER THE PREVIOUS YEAR, WAS ASSASSINATED IN BRAZZAVILLE, THE CONGOLESE CAPITAL, THE SAME DAY AS THE SUITCASE WAS OPENED AT KAITAK. THE ROLLS OF SUITING MATERIAL AND THE GOLD PENS WERE LABELLED AS PRESENTS FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE CONGO. SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICERS TOOK POSSESSION OF THE SUITCASE AND ITS CONTENTS AND ARE TRYING TO DETERMINE HOW THEY ARRIVED IN HONG KONG.

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IT IS UNDERSTOOD THE SUITCASE ORIGINATED IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, AND WAS POSSIBLY ON ITS WAY TO AUSTRALIA. IT HAS BEEN SPECULATED THAT THE SUITCASE WAS OFF-LOADED IN HONGKONG BY MISTAKE AND THE LABEL WAS TORN OFF. INVESTIGATIONS BY CARGO OFFICIALS AND AIRLINE STAFF HAVE FAILED TO TURN UP ANY SOLID CLUES AS TO ITS TRUE ORIGIN OR DESTINATION. MR. MONDJO WAS BORN IN FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA AND EDUCATED AT THE INSTITUTE DES HAUTES-ETUDES OF D OUTRE MER IN PARIS. HE HAS BEEN A PERMANENT MEMBER OF HIS COUNTRY'S MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SINCE JUNE 1970 AND IS A MEMBER OF THE UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL. THE DOCUMENTS, WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN FRENCH AND RUN TO ABOUT FIVE PAGES, APPEAR TO BE A REPORT BY MR. MONDJO ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH DR KISSINGER. THEY ALSO MENTION THE FORMER AMERICAN PRESIDENT, MR. GERALD FORD, BUT DO NOT SPECIFICALLY SAY WHETHER MR. FORD WAS AT THE TALKS OR EVEN WHERE THE TALKS TOOK PLACE. THE CONGO IS BORDERED BY ZAIRE, GABON, CAMEROON, THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND THE ANGOLAN ENCLAVE OF CABINDA.

IT WAS FORMERLY A FRENCH COLONY, GAINING INDEPENDENCE IN AUGUST 1960. THE COUNTRY'S MAIN EXPORTS ARE CRUDE OIL, TIMBER AND POTASH. ONE WEEK BEFORE THE MYSTERY SUITCASE TURNED UP AT KAITAK LAST YEAR, MR. RAUL CASTRO, THE BROTHER OF THE CUBAN PRIME MINISTER, DR FIDEL CASTRO, WAS IN BRAZZAVILLE FOR TALKS ON RE-SITING 3,000 CUBAN TROOPS IN THE CONGO FOLLOWING THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. END QUOTE

2. CONGEN HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS QUERIES REGARDING ABOVE ITEM. OUR STANDARD RESPONSE IS THAT WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER OTHER THAN THAT GAINED FROM THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, AND THAT WE SEE NO NEED TO TAKE ACTION OF ANY SORT. CROSS

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